

Listing of Claims:

1-6, 9-15, 17. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for disrupting cells or tissue comprising placing a sample comprising eukaryotic cells or tissue in a container, adding a nucleic acid stabilizing solution to said container, placing a disruption element having an outer dimension of at least about 6mm and being only slightly smaller than the inside dimension of said container into said container, and employing a said disruption element ~~device~~ for 45 seconds or less, removing cellular debris and other non-RNA materials from said sample, decanting the supernatant from said container, and extracting RNA from the decanted supernatant, and wherein contact between said disruption element ~~is in rolling contact with~~ and the inner surface of said container and said sample consists essentially of rolling contact.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the sample on which the disruption device is employed is a lymph node sample.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 conducted during the course of a surgical procedure on a sample obtained from a patient during the course of the procedure.